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NATIONS

A

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A/RES/54/120
20 January 2000

Fifty-fourth session
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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/595)*]

54/120. Policies and programmes involving youth

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, annexed thereto, as an integral part of that resolution,

Recalling also its resolutions 32/135 of 16 December 1977 and 36/17 of 9 November 1981, by which it adopted guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations, and 40/14 of 18 November 1985, entitled "International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace", by which it endorsed the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth as contained in the report of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year on its fourth session, held at Vienna from 25 March to 3 April 1985,[1]

Noting especially that, according to paragraph 123 of the Programme of Action, current regional and interregional conferences of ministers responsible for youth affairs in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Asia were invited to intensify cooperation among each other and to consider meeting regularly at the international level under the aegis of the United Nations to provide an effective forum for a focused global dialogue on youth-related issues,

[1] A/40/256, annex.

Noting that, in paragraph 124 of the Programme of Action, youth-related bodies and organizations of the United Nations system were invited to cooperate with the above-mentioned conferences,

Recalling that, in paragraph 125 of the Programme of Action, the World Youth Forum of the United Nations system was invited to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action through the identification and promotion of joint initiatives to further its objectives so that they could better reflect the interests of youth,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/55 of 23 July 1997 and General Assembly resolution 52/83 of 12 December 1997, in which the Council and the Assembly welcomed the offer of the Government of Portugal to host the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth at Lisbon from 8 to 12 August 1998,

Welcoming the holding of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, hosted by the Government of Portugal in cooperation with the United Nations, as well as the support of the Government of Portugal for the holding of the third session of the World Youth Forum at Braga, Portugal, from 2 to 7 August 1998,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond[2] and the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth;[3]

2. *Notes* the holding of the third session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations system at Braga, Portugal, from 2 to 7 August 1998, and expresses its appreciation to the Government of Portugal for its support;

3. *Calls upon* all States, all United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in particular youth organizations, to make every possible effort towards the implementation of the Programme of Action and to consider, within its framework, the appropriate ways and means to follow up the Lisbon Declaration, in accordance with their experience, situation and priorities;

4. *Invites* all relevant programmes, funds, specialized agencies and other bodies within the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and regional financial institutions, to give greater support to national youth policies and programmes within their country programmes as a way to follow up the World Conference;

5. *Reiterates* the call made by the World Conference to strengthen the Youth Unit of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Secretariat through the provision of all regular staffing and resources necessary for the fulfilment of its mandate, including the provision of effective assistance in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

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[2] A/54/59.

[3] See WCMRY/1998/28, chap. I, resolution 1.

6. *Encourages* the regional commissions to follow up the World Conference in their respective regions, in coordination with regional meetings of ministers responsible for youth and regional non-governmental youth organizations, and to provide advisory services to support national youth policies and programmes in each region;

7. *Endorses* the recommendation made by the World Conference that 12 August be declared International Youth Day,[4] and recommends that public information activities be organized at all levels to support the Day as a way to promote better awareness, especially among youth, of the Programme of Action;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General to participate actively in the effective follow-up to the World Conference, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 52/83 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/55 and within the framework of the Programme of Action;

9. *Recommends* that the second World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth be organized under the aegis of the United Nations, and notes with appreciation the offer made by the Government of Turkey to organize the second World Conference together with the fifth session of the World Youth Forum and the World Youth Festival;[5]

10. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of Senegal to host the fourth session of the World Youth Forum in 2001;[6]

11. *Calls upon* Member States, all United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations to continue to implement fully the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth, which the General Assembly endorsed by its resolution 40/14, and the guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations, which the Assembly adopted by its resolutions 32/135 and 36/17, and in particular to facilitate, in accordance with these resolutions, the activities of youth mechanisms that have been set up by youth and youth organizations;

12. *Recognizes* the important role that could be played by the United Nations Youth Fund for the implementation of agreed programmes and mandates on youth, including the provision of support for youth activities promoting South-South cooperation;

13. *Invites* all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the Fund, and requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate actions to encourage contributions;

14. *Recognizes* the important role of non-governmental youth organizations in the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national and international levels and in the development and evaluation of national policies, in particular concerning youth, and encourages Governments to ensure that the perspective of young people is reflected in national policies and programmes;

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[4] Ibid., resolution 2.

[5] See E/CN.5/1999/14, annex.

[6] See A/54/66–E/1999/6.

15. *Calls upon* all States, all United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to exchange knowledge and expertise on youth-related issues, upon setting up the ways and means to do so;

16. *Reiterates* the call made in the Programme of Action to Member States to consider including youth representatives in their delegations to the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations meetings, thus broadening the channels of communication and enhancing the discussion of youth-related issues, and requests the Secretary-General to convey this invitation again to Member States;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

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17 December 1999

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/595)*]

54/121. Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[1] 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, 49/153 of 23 December 1994, 50/144 of 21 December 1995 and 52/82 of 12 December 1997,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1997/19, on equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities, and 1997/20, on children with disabilities, of 21 July 1997 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/31, on the human rights of persons with disabilities, of 17 April 1998,[2]

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[1] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation I (IV).

[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

Recalling further the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming the obligations contained in relevant human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[3] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[4]

Reaffirming the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their respective follow-up reviews, in particular as they pertain to the promotion of the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities,

Noting with appreciation the important contributions of subregional, regional and international seminars and conferences related to persons with disabilities, such as the Fifth World Assembly of Disabled Peoples' International, held at Mexico City from 1 to 7 December 1998, on the theme "Towards an inclusive twenty-first century",

Expressing grave concern that situations of armed conflict have especially devastating consequences for the human rights of persons with disabilities,

Mindful of the need to adopt and implement effective policies and strategies to promote the rights and the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in economic, social, cultural and political life, on the basis of equality, to achieve a society for all,

Concerned that improvement of disability awareness and sensitivity to disability issues has not been significant enough to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities worldwide,

Recognizing the importance of timely and reliable data on disability-sensitive policies, programme planning and evaluation and the need for further development of practical statistical methodology for the collection and compilation of data on populations with disabilities,

Realizing that technology, in particular information technology, provides new possibilities for improving accessibility and employment for persons with disabilities and facilitating their full participation and equality, and welcoming the initiatives of the United Nations in promoting information technology as a means of achieving the universal goal of a society for all,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;[5]

2. *Welcomes* the initiatives of Governments to enhance the rights of persons with disabilities and for the further equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities, and also welcomes the contribution of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, in this regard;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the valuable work undertaken by the Special Rapporteur for monitoring the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities of the Commission for Social Development under his second mandate for the period 1997–2000;

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[3] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[4] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[5] A/54/388 and Add.1.

4. *Encourages* Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to take concrete measures to promote the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions and agreed international standards concerning persons with disabilities, in particular the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and for the further equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities by focusing on accessibility, health, social services, including training and rehabilitation, safety nets, employment and sustainable livelihoods, in the design and implementation of strategies, policies and programmes to promote a more inclusive society;

5. *Calls upon* Governments to undertake all necessary measures to advance beyond the adoption of national plans for people with disabilities through, *inter alia*, the creation or reinforcement of arrangements for the promotion and awareness of disability issues and the allocation of sufficient resources for the full implementation of existing plans and initiatives, and emphasizes the importance of supporting national efforts through international cooperation in this regard;

6. *Encourages* Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to take practical actions, including public information campaigns, by, for and with persons with disabilities, with a view to increasing disability awareness and sensitivity to disability issues and to combating and overcoming discrimination against persons with disabilities and in order to further their full and effective participation in society;

7. *Encourages* Governments to continue their support to non-governmental organizations contributing to the fulfilment of the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

8. *Also encourages* Governments to involve persons with disabilities in the formulation of strategies and plans aimed at eradicating poverty, promoting education and enhancing employment;

9. *Urges* relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, to work closely with the programme on disability of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Secretariat in the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, including activities at the field level, by sharing experiences, findings and recommendations on persons with disabilities;

10. *Urges* Governments to cooperate with the Statistics Division of the Secretariat in the continued development of global statistics and indicators on disability, and encourages them to avail themselves of the technical assistance of the Division to build national capacities for national data-collection systems, as needed;

11. *Also urges* Governments, in collaboration with the United Nations system, to give special attention to the rights, needs and well-being of children with disabilities and their families in the development of policies and programmes;

12. *Encourages* Governments, concerned non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to support the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability with a view to implementing fully the World Programme of Action and the Standard Rules, including the work of the Special Rapporteur, and to support activities to build national capacities, with emphasis on priorities identified in resolution 52/82;

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13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to support initiatives of relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as those of regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, for the promotion of the human rights of persons with disabilities and the further implementation of the World Programme of Action and in their efforts to integrate persons with disabilities in technical cooperation activities, both as beneficiaries and as decision makers;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include, in his assessments of the implementation of the outcome of major United Nations conferences and summits to be considered at the forthcoming special sessions of the General Assembly, the contribution of these meetings to the promotion of the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities;

15. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts in improving the accessibility of the United Nations for persons with disabilities, and urges him to continue to implement plans to provide a barrier-free environment, as well as information in an accessible format and communication services;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-ninth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

83rd plenary meeting
17 December 1999

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

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Agenda item 106

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/595)*]

54/122. A United Nations literacy decade: education for all

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[2] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child[3] the right of every individual to education is recognized as inalienable,

Recalling also its resolutions 42/104 of 7 December 1987, by which it proclaimed 1990 as International Literacy Year, 44/127 of 15 December 1989, 46/93 of 16 December 1991, 50/143 of 21 December 1995, in which it called for continuing international efforts to promote literacy, and 52/84 of 12 December 1997, in which it requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and in consultation with Member States, to consider effective ways and means for achieving the goal of education for all, including the desirability and feasibility of launching a United Nations decade to eradicate illiteracy,

Deeply concerned about the persistence of the gender gap in education, which is reflected by the fact that nearly two thirds of the world's adult illiterates are women,

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] Resolution 44/25, annex.

Convinced that literacy, especially functional literacy, and quality education represent a lifelong necessity for all and serve as an investment in human and social capital and a major tool for the empowerment of people,

Recalling its resolution 53/153 of 9 December 1998, entitled "United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004, and public information activities in the field of human rights",

Confident that the International Literacy Year and the World Conference on Education for All, held at Jomtien, Thailand, in 1990, resulted in increased awareness and support for literacy efforts and became a turning point in the struggle for a literate world,

Underlining the importance of sustaining and further promoting the progress achieved since the International Literacy Year and the Jomtien Conference,

Welcoming the Amman Affirmation, adopted at the mid-decade meeting of the International Consultative Forum on Education for All, held at Amman from 16 to 19 June 1996,[4] the report of the International Commission on Education for the Twenty-first Century to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization[5] and the Hamburg Declaration on Adult Learning, adopted at the Fifth International Conference on Adult Education, held at Hamburg, Germany, from 14 to 18 July 1997,[6]

Recognizing that, despite the significant progress in basic education, especially the increase in primary school enrolment coupled with a growing emphasis on the quality of education, major problems, both emerging and continuing, still persist which require even more forceful and concerted action at the national and international levels so as to achieve the goal of education for all,

Urging Member States, in close partnership with international organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, to promote the right to education for all and to create conditions for all for learning throughout life,

1. *Takes note* of the interim report of the Secretary-General and of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, entitled "Progress towards the goal of education for all: the year 2000 Assessment";[7]

2. *Reaffirms* that basic education for all is essential for achieving the goals of eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy;

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[4] A/52/183–E/1997/74, annex.

[5] *Learning: The Treasure Within* (Paris, UNESCO, 1996).

[6] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, document ED/MD/101, part III.

[7] A/54/128–E/1999/70.

3. *Acknowledges* the efforts and the preparatory work at the national and regional levels for the year 2000 assessment of progress towards achieving the goals of education for all in identifying both continuing and emerging challenges, and stresses the need to meet those challenges and to accelerate the efforts to meet the basic needs of people of all age groups, in particular girls and women;

4. *Appeals* to all Governments to intensify their efforts to eradicate illiteracy and to direct education towards the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

5. *Also appeals* to all Governments to redouble their efforts to achieve their own goals of education for all by setting firm targets and timetables, where possible, including gender-specific education targets and programmes to combat the illiteracy of women and girls, and, by working in active partnership with communities, associations, the media and development agencies, to reach those targets;

6. *Appeals anew* to Governments and to economic and financial organizations and institutions, both national and international, to lend greater financial and material support to the efforts to increase literacy and achieve the goals of education for all, through, *inter alia*, the 20/20 initiative, as appropriate;

7. *Invites* Member States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify further their efforts to implement effectively the World Declaration on Education for All,[8] the Amman Affirmation,[4] the Hamburg Declaration on Adult Learning, adopted at the Fifth International Conference on Adult Education,[6] and the Agenda for the Future, also adopted at the Fifth International Conference,[6] and the relevant commitments and recommendations to promote literacy made in recent major United Nations conferences and at their five-year reviews with a view to better coordinating their activities and increasing their contribution to development;

8. *Welcomes* the convening of the World Education Forum, to be held in April 2000 in Senegal with a view to assessing the implementation of the goals of education for all and adopting an agenda for education in the twenty-first century;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and Member States and with other relevant organizations and bodies, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a proposal for a United Nations literacy decade, with a draft plan of action and possible time-frame for such a decade, on the basis of the outcomes of the World Education Forum and the special session of the General Assembly for the five-year review of the World Summit for Social Development;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States as well as the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

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[8] *Final Report of the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs, Jomtien, Thailand, 5–9 March 1990*, Inter-Agency Commission (UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank) for the World Conference on Education for All, New York, 1990, appendix I.

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the question of a United Nations literacy decade.

83rd plenary meeting
17 December 1999

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/595)*]

54/123. Cooperatives in social development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/90 of 16 December 1992 and 49/155 of 23 December 1994 and its resolution 51/58 of 12 December 1996 in which it requested the Secretary-General to ascertain, in cooperation with the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives, the desirability and feasibility of elaborating United Nations guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on the status and role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends[1] and the draft guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives annexed thereto,

Recognizing that cooperatives, in their various forms, are becoming a major factor of economic and social development by promoting the fullest possible participation in the development process of women and all population groups, including youth, older persons and people with disabilities, and are increasingly providing an effective and affordable mechanism for meeting people's needs for basic social services,

[1] A/54/57.

Recognizing also the important contribution and potential of all forms of cooperatives to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996, and the World Food Summit, held at Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996, including their five-year reviews,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the status and role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends;[1]

2. *Welcomes* the elaboration of the draft guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives;[2]

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek views from Governments on the draft guidelines and provide, if necessary, a revised version for adoption;

4. *Urges* Governments, relevant international organizations and specialized agencies, in collaboration with national and international cooperative organizations, to give due consideration to the role and contribution of cooperatives in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the World Food Summit, including their five-year reviews, by, *inter alia:*

(*a*) Utilizing and developing fully the potential and contribution of cooperatives for the attainment of social development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty, the generation of full and productive employment and the enhancement of social integration;

(*b*) Encouraging and facilitating the establishment and development of cooperatives, including taking measures aimed at enabling people living in poverty or belonging to vulnerable groups to engage on a voluntary basis in the creation and development of cooperatives;

(*c*) Taking appropriate measures aimed at creating a supportive and enabling environment for the development of cooperatives by, *inter alia*, developing an effective partnership between Governments and the cooperative movement;

5. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations, specialized agencies and local, national and international cooperative organizations to continue to observe the International Day of Cooperatives annually, on the first Saturday of July, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/90;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations and other international organizations, to render support to Member States, as appropriate, in their efforts to create a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives, including through the organization of workshops and seminars at the national, subregional and regional levels;

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[2] Ibid., annex.

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with Member States and the relevant United Nations organizations and international organizations, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to submit it, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

83rd plenary meeting
17 December 1999

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/595)*]

54/124. Follow-up to the International Year of the Family

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 46/92 of 16 December 1991, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1995 and 52/81 of 12 December 1997 concerning the proclamation, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family,

Recognizing that the basic objective of the follow-up to the International Year of the Family should be to strengthen and support families in performing their societal and developmental functions and to build upon their strengths, in particular at the national and local levels,

Noting that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the world conferences of the 1990s continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Emphasizing that equality between women and men and respect for the rights of all family members is essential to family well-being and to society at large,

Noting with concern that the contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities have steadily decreased, reducing its resource base, and that, unless this trend is reversed and the Fund strengthened, many priority concerns relating to family issues will not be met,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the International Year of the Family,[1]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Invites* Governments to continue their actions to build family-friendly societies, *inter alia*, by promoting the rights of individual family members, in particular gender equality and the rights of the child;

3. *Urges* Governments to continue to take sustained action at all levels concerning family issues, including studies and applied research, to promote the role of families in development and to develop concrete measures and approaches to address national priorities to deal with family issues;

4. *Recommends* that all relevant actors, including Governments, research and academic institutions and civil society, contribute to developing strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening the economic and sustainable livelihood of families;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to play an active role in facilitating international cooperation within the framework of the follow-up to the International Year of the Family, to facilitate the exchange of experiences and information among Governments on effective policies and strategies, to facilitate technical assistance, with a focus on least developed and developing countries, and to encourage the organization of subregional and interregional meetings and relevant research;

6. *Invites* the Commission for Social Development, when adopting its next multi-year programme of work, to consider undertaking a review of the global situation of the family in 2004, bearing in mind that, in different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the appropriate ways and means to observe the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004.

83rd plenary meeting
17 December 1999

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[1] A/54/256.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/596)*]

54/125. Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/91 of 12 December 1997 and 53/110 of 9 December 1998 on preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/32 of 27 July 1993 and the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders,

Emphasizing the role of the Tenth Congress as a consultative body of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in accordance with paragraph 29 of the statement of principles and programme of action of the Programme annexed to General Assembly resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991,

Welcoming the recommendations made by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventh[1] and eighth[2] sessions on the organizational and substantive preparations for the Tenth Congress,

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[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 10* and corrigendum (E/1998/30 and Corr.1), chap. II.

[2] Ibid., *1999, Supplement No. 10* (E/1999/30), chap. IV.

Stressing the importance of undertaking all the preparatory activities for the Tenth Congress in a timely and concerted manner,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;[3]

2. *Also takes note* of the reports of the four regional preparatory meetings for the Tenth Congress,[4] and invites Member States and other entities involved to take into account the conclusions and recommendations contained in those reports;

3. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure, in collaboration with Member States, a wide and effective programme of public information related to the preparations for the Tenth Congress, to the Congress itself and to the follow-up to and implementation of its conclusions;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to assist least developed countries and consider ways to assist developing countries in need to participate in the Tenth Congress by providing the necessary resources for the travel and per diem of delegations from least developed countries, within available resources, and by exploring the possibility of obtaining contributions for that purpose from governmental, intergovernmental and relevant non-governmental organizations and donors;

5. *Calls upon* the specialized agencies and other relevant United Nations bodies and institutes and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate effectively in the Tenth Congress and to contribute to the formulation of regional and international measures aimed at preventing crime and ensuring justice;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the substantive and organizational arrangements for the Tenth Congress are adequate in relation to its expected outcome and to provide the required resources for that purpose in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001;

7. *Approves* the documentation and the draft programme of work for the Tenth Congress, as proposed by the Secretary-General in his report on progress made in the preparations for the Congress,[5] taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice related thereto;

8. *Decides* that the high-level segment of the Tenth Congress shall be held on 14 and 15 April 2000 to allow heads of State or Government or government ministers to focus on the main theme of the Congress;

9. *Encourages* States, other entities concerned and the Secretary-General to work together in order to ensure that the four workshops to be held during the Tenth Congress focus clearly on the respective issues and achieve practical results, and invites interested Governments to follow up with concrete technical cooperation projects or activities;

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[3] E/CN.15/1999/6 and Corr.1.

[4] A/CONF.187/RPM.1/1 and Corr.1, A/CONF.187/RPM.2/1, A/CONF.187/RPM.3/1 and A/CONF.187/RPM.4/1.

[5] E/CN.15/1999/6 and Corr.1, chap. II, sect. F, and annex.

10. *Invites* donor countries to cooperate with developing countries to ensure their full participation in the workshops;

11. *Encourages* Governments to make preparations for the Tenth Congress at an early stage and by all necessary means, including, where appropriate, by establishing national preparatory committees, with a view to contributing to a focused and productive discussion of the topics and to participating actively in the organization of and follow-up to the workshops, the submission of national position papers on different agenda items and the encouragement of contributions from the academic community and relevant scientific institutions;

12. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States to be represented at the Tenth Congress at a high political level, for example, by heads of State or Government, government ministers or attorneys-general;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite prominent personalities with acknowledged expertise in the topics of the Tenth Congress, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, to participate in panels under each topic of the Congress at the expense of the United Nations, with a view to ensuring a more focused discussion and action-oriented conclusions;

14. *Decides* that the Tenth Congress, within the framework of the provisional agenda approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/110, should devote particular attention to ways and means of making operational the provisions of the United Nations convention against transnational organized crime, especially taking into account the needs of developing countries in the area of capacity-building;

15. *Requests* the Tenth Congress to submit, through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Economic and Social Council, its declaration to the Millennium Assembly for consideration and action;

16. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to give priority attention at its ninth session to the conclusions and recommendations of the Tenth Congress, with a view to recommending, through the Economic and Social Council, appropriate follow-up by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to appoint a Secretary-General and an Executive Secretary of the Tenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, to perform their functions under the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders;

18. *Decides* to consider this question at its fifty-fifth session.

83rd plenary meeting
17 December 1999

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/54/126
26 January 2000

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 107

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/596)*]

54/126. Draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the draft protocols thereto

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/159 of 23 December 1994, in which it approved the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, adopted by the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, held at Naples, Italy, from 21 to 23 November 1994,[1]

Recalling also its resolution 52/85 of 12 December 1997, in which it decided to establish an inter-sessional open-ended intergovernmental group of experts for the purpose of elaborating a preliminary draft of a possible comprehensive international convention against organized transnational crime, which met at Warsaw from 2 to 6 February 1998,

Recalling further the Buenos Aires Declaration on Prevention and Control of Organized Transnational Crime, adopted by the Regional Ministerial Workshop on Follow-up to the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, held at Buenos Aires from 27 to 30 November 1995,[2] the Dakar Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Organized Transnational Crime and Corruption, adopted by the African Regional Ministerial Workshop on Organized Transnational Crime and

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[1] A/49/748, annex, chap. I, sect. A.

[2] E/CN.15/1996/2/Add.1, annex.

Corruption, held at Dakar from 21 to 23 July 1997,[3] and the Manila Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Transnational Crime, adopted by the Asian Regional Ministerial Workshop on Organized Transnational Crime and Corruption, held at Manila from 23 to 25 March 1998,[4]

Recalling its resolution 53/111 of 9 December 1998, in which it decided to establish an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc committee for the purpose of elaborating a comprehensive international convention against transnational organized crime and of discussing the elaboration, as appropriate, of international instruments addressing trafficking in women and children, combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea,

Convinced of the need to ensure the rapid development and conclusion of the convention and the protocols thereto,

Bearing in mind the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on its second session, held at Vienna from 8 to 12 March 1999,[5]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighth session,[6] and expresses its appreciation of the results achieved by the Ad Hoc Committee during its first, second and third sessions, held at Vienna from 19 to 29 January, 8 to 12 March and 28 April to 3 May 1999, respectively, in the development of the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the draft protocols thereto, addressing trafficking in women and children, combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and smuggling of migrants by land, air and sea;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Argentina for acting as host to the informal preparatory meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, held at Buenos Aires from 31 August to 4 September 1998;

3. *Decides* that the additional international instrument being prepared by the Ad Hoc Committee addressing trafficking in women and children should address trafficking in all persons, but especially women and children, and requests the Ad Hoc Committee to make any corresponding changes to the draft instrument;

4. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Committee to continue its work, in accordance with resolutions 53/111 and 53/114 of 9 December 1998, and to intensify its work in order to complete it in 2000;

5. *Decides* that the Ad Hoc Committee shall be convened in 2000 as required in order to complete its tasks, holding no fewer than four sessions of two weeks each, according to a schedule to be drawn up;

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[3] E/CN.15/1998/6/Add.1, sect. I.

[4] E/CN.15/1998/6/Add.2, sect. I.

[5] A/AC.254/11.

[6] A/AC.254/13–E/CN.15/1999/5.

6. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Committee to schedule sufficient time, subject to the availability of funds from the regular budget or extrabudgetary resources, for the negotiation of the draft protocols addressing trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and smuggling of migrants by land, air and sea, in order to enhance the possibility of their completion at the same time as the draft Convention;

7. *Welcomes* the offer of the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences to host informal meetings as deemed appropriate to assist the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

8. *Encourages* Member States to convene informal regional or interregional meetings to assist the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

9. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of Japan to host an international seminar on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms;

10. *Decides* that the Ad Hoc Committee shall submit the final text of the Convention and the protocols thereto to the General Assembly for early adoption prior to a high-level signing conference;

11. *Notes with appreciation* the offer by the Government of Italy to host a high-level political signing conference at Palermo;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Ad Hoc Committee with the required facilities and resources to support its work;

13. *Invites* donor countries to cooperate with developing countries to ensure their full participation in the ongoing negotiating process and in the implementation of the Convention through appropriate means of technical assistance;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide to Member States, upon request, technical cooperation, advisory services and other forms of assistance in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, including in the area of prevention and control of transnational organized crime;

15. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Committee to submit a report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its ninth session on the progress achieved in its work.

83rd plenary meeting
17 December 1999

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/596)*]

54/127. Activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, as well as consideration of the need to develop an instrument on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/111 of 9 December 1998 on transnational organized crime,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1998/17 on the regulation of explosives for the purpose of crime prevention and public health and safety and 1998/18 on measures to regulate firearms for the purpose of combating illicit trafficking in firearms, of 28 July 1998,

Taking into account the work of the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/70 B of 12 December 1995,

Recognizing the need for effective coordination between the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the different United Nations bodies involved in the field of small arms,

Taking note of the *United Nations International Study on Firearm Regulation*[1] and of the note by the Secretary-General on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives by criminals and the abuse and misuse of explosives for criminal purposes,[2]

Concerned by the increase, at the international level, in the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition and by the seriousness of the problems arising from them, as well as by their links with transnational organized crime,

Aware of the urgent need to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition,

Aware also that the illicit manufacturing of, trafficking in and criminal misuse of explosives have a harmful effect on the security of States and endanger the well-being of peoples and their social and economic development,

Deeply concerned that effective action against transnational organized crime is hampered by the easy access that criminals have to explosives,

Convinced that combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, as well as combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives, requires international cooperation, the exchange of information and other appropriate measures at the national, regional and global levels,

Aware of the importance of bilateral and multilateral instruments and arrangements in the furtherance of international cooperation in the matter, including guidelines and model regulations,

Stressing the need for all States, especially those States which produce, export or import arms, to take the necessary measures to prevent, curb, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, as well as explosives,

Reaffirming the principles of sovereignty, non-intervention and the sovereign equality of all States and the rights and obligations enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and encourages it to continue the negotiation of an international legal instrument dealing with the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition;

2. *Recommends* that, in negotiating the international legal instrument, the Ad Hoc Committee take into account, when appropriate and pertinent, the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials, adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States at its twenty-fourth special session,

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[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.IV.2.

[2] E/CN.15/1999/3/Add.1.

held in Washington, D.C., on 13 and 14 November 1997,[3] as well as other existing international instruments and ongoing initiatives;

3. *Calls upon* States to consider the adoption of such legislative or other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences under their domestic law the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, as well as explosives;

4. *Encourages* States to consider ways to enhance cooperation and the exchange of data and other information with a view to preventing, curbing, combating and eradicating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, as well as explosives;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, from within existing or extrabudgetary resources, to convene an expert group of no more than twenty members, with equitable geographical representation, to prepare a study on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives by criminals and their use for criminal purposes, taking fully into consideration the issues listed in paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/17;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the participation of experts from developing countries in the meeting of the expert group by providing, from within existing or extrabudgetary resources, for the travel of experts from such countries;

7. *Invites* Member States to make voluntary contributions in order to support the study to be prepared by the expert group and to ensure the participation of experts from developing countries;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report, as early as possible, to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on the results of the study, and directs the Ad Hoc Committee, following the completion of the study, to consider the possible elaboration of an international instrument on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives.

83rd plenary meeting
17 December 1999

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[3] See A/53/78, annex.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/596)*]

54/128. Action against corruption

The General Assembly,

Noting the corrosive effect that corruption has on democracy, development, the rule of law and economic activity,

Recognizing that corruption is a primary tool of organized crime in its efforts, often conducted on an international basis, to subvert Governments and legitimate commerce,

Drawing attention to the increasing number of regional conventions and other regional instruments recently developed to fight corruption, including the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development adopted on 21 November 1997,[1] the Inter-American Convention against Corruption adopted by the Organization of American States on 29 March 1996,[2] the Principles to Combat Corruption in African Countries of the Global Coalition for Africa, the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption[3] and the Agreement Establishing the Group of States against Corruption adopted by the Council of Europe on 27 January and 1 May 1999, respectively, the conventions and related protocols on corruption of the

[1] See *Corruption and Integrity Improvement Initiatives in Developing Countries* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.III.B.18).

[2] See E/1996/99.

[3] Council of Europe, *European Treaty Series*, No. 173.

European Union and recommendation 32 of the Senior Experts Group on Transnational Organized Crime endorsed by the Political Group of Eight at Lyon, France, on 29 June 1996,[4] as well as to best practices, such as those compiled by the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and the International Organization of Securities Commissions,

Commending the efforts in the United Nations to address corruption concerns in a global forum, including the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions[5] and the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials,[6] the ongoing development of a comprehensive international convention against transnational organized crime and protocols thereto by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/111 of 9 December 1998, and the manual prepared by the Secretariat on practical measures against corruption,[7]

Noting the holding of the Expert Group Meeting on Corruption and its Financial Channels in Paris from 30 March to 1 April 1999, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/16 of 28 July 1998,

Noting also the holding of the first Global Forum on Fighting Corruption in Washington, D.C., from 24 to 26 February 1999, at the invitation of the Vice-President of the United States of America,[8] at which participants from ninety Governments called upon their Governments to cooperate in regional and global bodies to adopt effective anti-corruption principles and practices and to create ways to assist one another through mutual evaluation,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of, and subscribes to the conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Corruption and its Financial Channels, held in Paris from 30 March to 1 April 1999, which are contained in the report of the Expert Group Meeting;[9]

2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the Declaration made by the first Global Forum on Fighting Corruption, held in Washington, D.C., from 24 to 26 February 1999,[10] and notes that the second Global Forum is to be held in the Netherlands in 2000 as a follow-up to the first Global Forum;

3. *Invites* Member States to examine, at the national level, as appropriate, taking into account the above-mentioned documents, the adequacy of their domestic legal regimes in terms of guarding against corruption and providing for forfeiture of the proceeds of corruption, drawing upon international assistance available for that purpose, with a view, where necessary:

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[4] See Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/22, annex I.

[5] Resolution 51/191, annex.

[6] Resolution 51/59, annex.

[7] *International Review of Criminal Policy*, Nos. 41 and 42 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.IV.4).

[8] E/CN.15/1999/CRP.12.

[9] E/CN.15/1999/10, paras. 1–14.

[10] E/CN./15/1999/WP.1/Add.1.

(*a*) To strengthening national laws and regulations in order to criminalize corruption in all its forms, amending provisions against money-laundering so that they cover bribes and the proceeds of corruption, as well as provisions concerning the prevention and detection of acts of corruption and money-laundering;

(*b*) To improving the transparency, vigilance and monitoring of financial transactions and limiting bank and professional secrecy in cases involving criminal investigation;

(*c*) To promoting both inter-agency coordination and international administrative and judicial cooperation in matters involving corruption;

(*d*) To enacting legislation and establishing programmes promoting the full involvement of civil society in efforts to fight corruption;

(*e*) To providing, in accordance with relevant international instruments and domestic legislation, for the possibility of providing extradition and mutual assistance in cases involving corruption or money-laundering;

4. *Stresses* the need to develop a global strategy to strengthen international cooperation aimed at the prevention and punishment of corruption, including the links of corruption with organized crime and money-laundering, by:

(*a*) Encouraging Member States to become parties to and to implement the terms of relevant international conventions and other instruments aimed at fighting corruption;

(*b*) Inviting Member States to participate in conferences and other forums for the advancement of international efforts against corruption;

(*c*) Also inviting Member States to explore the possibilities of developing a global system for peer review regarding the adequacy of practices aimed at combating corruption;

5. *Directs* the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to incorporate into the draft Convention measures against corruption linked to organized crime, including provisions regarding the sanctioning of acts of corruption involving public officials;

6. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Committee, using such time as its schedule permits and with extrabudgetary resources provided for that purpose, to explore the desirability of an international instrument against corruption, either ancillary to or independent of the Convention, to be developed after the finalization of the Convention and the three additional instruments referred to in General Assembly resolution 53/111, and to present its views to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

7. *Invites* Member States to keep the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat informed of progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Corruption and its Financial Channels;

8. *Requests* the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention:

(*a*) To ensure that the ongoing revision of the manual prepared by the Secretariat on practical measures against corruption[7] incorporates the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Corruption and its Financial Channels[9] and takes note of the conclusions of the first Global Forum on Fighting Corruption;[8]

(*b*) To continue to develop, in consultation with Member States, an effective global programme for providing technical assistance to fight corruption;

(*c*) To explore ways to convince underregulated financial centres to adopt rules enabling them to trace and take action against the proceeds of organized crime and corruption, to participate actively in international cooperation aimed at preventing and controlling related forms of financial crime and, if necessary, to consider measures to protect the international financial system from the underregulated financial centres and mechanisms for the establishment of such minimum rules;

(*d*) To report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice no later than at its tenth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution and the steps taken by Member States to combat corruption and its proceeds;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake, within existing or extrabudgetary resources, technical cooperation activities to combat corruption, in consultation with Member States that may be able to provide assistance.

83rd plenary meeting
17 December 1999

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

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Agenda item 107

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/596)*]

54/129. High-level Political Signing Conference for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/111 of 9 December 1998, in which it decided to establish an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc committee for the purpose of elaborating a comprehensive international convention against transnational organized crime and of discussing the elaboration, as appropriate, of international instruments addressing trafficking in women and children, combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea,

Bearing in mind that in resolution 54/126 of 17 December 1999 it requested the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to schedule sufficient time, subject to the availability of funds from the regular budget or from extrabudgetary resources, for the negotiation of the draft protocols addressing trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and smuggling of migrants by land, air and sea, in order to enhance the possibility of their completion at the same time as the draft Convention,

Acknowledging the progress made thus far by the Ad Hoc Committee towards the goal of completing negotiations in 2000,

Mindful that substantive negotiations on the Convention and the protocols thereto continue in Vienna in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 40/243 of 18 December 1985 and 53/111 and 53/114 of 9 December 1998,

Recalling that in its resolution 54/126 it decided that the Ad Hoc Committee should submit the final text of the Convention and the protocols thereto to the General Assembly for early adoption prior to a high-level signing conference,

Recalling also the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, adopted by the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, held in Naples, Italy, from 21 to 23 November 1994,[1] in which the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was requested to initiate the process of elaborating international instruments, such as a convention or conventions against organized transnational crime,

Recognizing the initiating role and the contribution of the Government of Poland to the development of a draft convention against transnational organized crime,

Recognizing also the historic and symbolic importance of associating the first international convention against transnational organized crime with the city of Palermo, Italy,

1. *Accepts with appreciation* the offer of the Government of Italy to host a high-level political signing conference in Palermo for the purpose of signing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) and the protocols thereto;

2. *Decides* to convene the High-level Political Signing Conference in Palermo;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to schedule the Conference for a period of up to one week before the end of the Millennium Assembly in 2000, with the Conference to be organized in accordance with resolution 40/243;

4. *Requests* the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat to work with the Government of Italy, in consultation with Member States, to propose the agenda for and the organization of the Conference, including opportunities for high-level delegates to discuss matters related to the Convention and the protocols thereto, in particular the follow-up activities, for their effective implementation and future work;

5. *Invites* all States to be represented at the High-level Political Signing Conference at the highest possible levels of government.

83rd plenary meeting
17 December 1999

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[1] A/49/748, annex, chap. I, sect. A.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/596)*]

54/130. African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/113 of 9 December 1998 and all other relevant resolutions,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Bearing in mind the urgent need to establish effective crime prevention strategies for Africa, as well as the importance of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary at the regional and subregional levels,

Noting that the financial situation of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders has greatly affected its capacity to deliver its services to African Member States in an effective and comprehensive manner,

1. *Commends* the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders for its efforts to promote and coordinate regional technical cooperation activities related to crime prevention and criminal justice systems in Africa;

[1] A/54/340.

2. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen further the capacity of the Institute to support national mechanisms for crime prevention and criminal justice in African countries;

3. *Urges* the States members of the Institute to make every possible effort to meet their obligations to the Institute;

4. *Calls upon* all Member States and non-governmental organizations to adopt concrete practical measures to support the Institute in the development of the requisite capacity and implement its programmes and activities aimed at strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice systems in Africa;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to mobilize all relevant entities of the United Nations system to provide the necessary financial and technical support to the Institute to enable it to fulfil its mandate;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to deploy his efforts to mobilize the financial resources necessary to provide the Institute with the core professional staff required to enable it to function effectively in the fulfilment of its mandated obligations;

7. *Calls upon* the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to work closely with the Institute;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enhance the promotion of regional cooperation, coordination and collaboration in the fight against crime, especially in its transnational dimension, which cannot be dealt with adequately by national action alone;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make concrete proposals, including the provision of additional core professional staff, in order to strengthen the programmes and activities of the Institute and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

83rd plenary meeting
17 December 1999

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/596)*]

54/131. Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991 on the creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in which it approved the statement of principles and programme of action annexed to that resolution,

Emphasizing the role of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, specifically the reduction of criminality, more efficient and effective law enforcement and administration of justice, respect for human rights and promotion of the highest standards of fairness, humanity and professional conduct,

Convinced of the desirability of closer coordination and cooperation among States in combating crime, including drug-related crimes such as money-laundering, illicit arms trade and terrorist crimes, bearing in mind the role that could be played by both the United Nations and regional organizations in this respect,

Recognizing the urgent need to increase technical cooperation activities to assist countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with their efforts in translating United Nations policy guidelines into practice,

Recalling its relevant resolutions in which it requested the Secretary-General, as a matter of urgency, to provide the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme with sufficient resources for the full implementation of its mandate, in conformity with the high priority attached to the Programme,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/114 of 9 December 1998;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme in promoting effective action to strengthen international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, in responding to the needs of the international community in the face of both national and transnational criminality and in assisting Member States in achieving the goals of preventing crime within and among States and improving the response to crime;

3. *Also reaffirms* the role of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat in providing to Member States, upon request, technical cooperation, advisory services and other forms of assistance in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, including in the area of prevention and control of organized crime;

4. *Notes* the programme of work of the Centre, including the launching of three global programmes addressing, respectively, trafficking in human beings, corruption and organized crime, formulated on the basis of close consultations with Member States and review by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and calls on the Secretary-General to strengthen further the Centre by providing it with the resources necessary for the full implementation of its mandate;

5. *Supports* the high priority given to technical cooperation and advisory services in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, including in the area of prevention and control of transnational organized crime, and stresses the need to enhance the operational activities of the Centre to assist, in particular, developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

6. *Welcomes* the increased number of technical assistance projects in the field of juvenile justice, reflecting an increased awareness among Member States of the importance of juvenile justice reform in establishing and maintaining stable societies and the rule of law;

7. *Invites* all States to support, through voluntary contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, the operational activities of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme;

8. *Encourages* relevant programmes, funds and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank, and regional and national funding agencies to support the technical operational activities of the Centre;

9. *Urges* States and funding agencies to review, as appropriate, their funding policies for development assistance and to include a crime prevention and criminal justice component in such assistance;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to exercise more vigorously its mandated function of resource mobilization, and calls upon the Commission to strengthen further its activities in this direction;

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[1] A/54/289.

11. *Expresses its appreciation* to non-governmental organizations and other relevant sectors of civil society for their support to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme;

12. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention to enhance the synergies between the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention, in conformity with the reform proposals of the Secretary-General;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to assist the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as the principal policy-making body in this field, in performing its activities, including cooperation and coordination with other relevant bodies, such as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission for Social Development;

14. *Reaffirms* the high priority attached to the elaboration of a comprehensive convention against transnational organized crime and additional international instruments addressing trafficking in persons, especially women and children, combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and smuggling of migrants by land, air and sea, notes the progress achieved by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in this regard, and calls upon Member States to make all possible efforts to ensure the rapid development and conclusion of the convention and the protocols thereto;

15. *Welcomes* the decision of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to mainstream a gender perspective into its activities and its request to the Secretariat that a gender perspective be integrated into all activities of the Centre;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

83rd plenary meeting
17 December 1999

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/597)*]

54/132. International cooperation against the world drug problem

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/92 of 12 December 1997 and 53/115 of 9 December 1998,

Reaffirming its commitment to the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly devoted to countering the world drug problem together, held in New York from 8 to 10 June 1998, and welcoming the continued determination of Governments to overcome the world drug problem by a full and balanced application of national, regional and international strategies to reduce the demand for, production of and trafficking in illicit drugs, as reflected in the Political Declaration,[1] the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction[2] and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem,[3]

Gravely concerned that, despite continued increased efforts by States, relevant international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, there is a global expansion of the drug problem, which constitutes a serious threat to the health, safety and well-being of all mankind, in particular young people, in all countries, undermines development, including efforts to reduce poverty, socio-economic

[1] Resolution S–20/2, annex.

[2] Resolution S–20/3, annex.

[3] Resolution S–20/4.

and political stability and democratic institutions, entails an increasing economic cost for Governments, also threatens the national security and sovereignty of States, as well as the dignity and hope of millions of people and their families, and causes irreparable loss of human lives,

Concerned that the demand for, production of and trafficking in illicit drugs and psychotropic substances continue to threaten seriously the socio-economic and political systems, stability, national security and sovereignty of an increasing number of States, especially those involved in conflicts and wars, and that trafficking in drugs could make conflict resolution more difficult,

Deeply alarmed by the growing and spreading violence and economic power of criminal organizations and terrorist groups engaged in drug-trafficking activities and other criminal activities, such as money-laundering and illicit traffic in arms, precursors and essential chemicals, and by the increasing transnational links between them, and recognizing the need for international cooperation and implementation of effective strategies on the basis of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, which are essential to achieving results against all forms of transnational criminal activities,

Deeply convinced that the special session made a significant contribution to a new comprehensive framework for international cooperation, based on an integrated and balanced approach with strategies, measures, methods, practical activities, goals and specific targets to be met, that all States, the United Nations system and other international organizations must implement them with concrete actions and that the international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, and the regional development banks should be invited to include action against the world drug problem in their programmes, taking into account the priorities of States,

Convinced that civil society, including non-governmental organizations, can make an effective contribution to and should play an active role in addressing the world drug problem,

Emphasizing the importance of the adoption of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction annexed to the present resolution, which introduces a global approach, recognizing a new balance between illicit supply and demand reduction, under the principle of shared responsibility, aims at preventing the use of drugs and at reducing the adverse consequences of drug abuse, ensuring that special attention is paid to vulnerable groups, in particular youth, and constitutes one of the pillars of the new global strategy and an important initiative of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, 1991–2000, and reaffirming the need for demand reduction programmes,

Emphasizing equally the importance of supply reduction as an integral part of a balanced drug control strategy under the principles enshrined in the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,[4] reaffirming the need for alternative development programmes that are sustainable, welcoming the achievements of some States on their way to eradicating illicit drug crops, and inviting all other States to make similar efforts,

Underlining the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the principal United Nations policy-making body on drug control issues, the leadership role and commendable work of the United Nations

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[4] Resolution S-20/4 E.

International Drug Control Programme as the main focus for concerted multilateral action and the important role of the International Narcotics Control Board as an independent monitoring authority, as set out in the international drug control treaties,

Recognizing the efforts of all countries, in particular those that produce narcotic drugs for scientific and medical purposes, and of the International Narcotics Control Board in preventing the diversion of such substances to illicit markets and in maintaining production at a level consistent with licit demand, in line with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961[5] and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[6]

Acknowledging that there are links, under certain circumstances, between poverty and the increase in the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and that the promotion of the economic development of countries affected by the illicit drug trade requires appropriate measures, including strengthened international cooperation in support of alternative and sustainable development activities in the affected areas of those countries, which have as their objectives the reduction and elimination of illicit drug production,

Stressing that respect for all human rights is and must be an essential component of measures taken to address the drug problem,

Ensuring that women and men benefit equally, and without any discrimination, from strategies directed against the world drug problem, through their involvement in all stages of programmes and policy-making,

Recognizing that the use of the Internet poses new opportunities and challenges to international cooperation in combating drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking, and recognizing also the need for increased cooperation among States and the exchange of information, including with reference to national experiences, on how to counteract the promotion of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking through this instrument and on ways to use the Internet for information concerning drug demand reduction,

I

RESPECT FOR THE PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

1. *Reaffirms* that the fight against the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility which must be addressed in a multilateral setting, requiring an integrated and balanced approach, and must be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and in particular with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

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[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

[6] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

2. *Calls upon* all States to take further action to promote effective cooperation at the international and regional levels in the efforts to combat the world drug problem so as to contribute to a climate conducive to achieving that end, on the basis of the principles of equal rights and mutual respect;

3. *Urges* all States to ratify or accede to and implement all the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[7] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[6] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;[8]

II

ACTION PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION

1. *Adopts* the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-third session on the follow-up to the Action Plan;

3. *Urges* all Member States to implement the Action Plan in their respective national, regional and international actions and to strengthen their national efforts to fight the use of illicit drugs among their population, in particular among children and youth;

III

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO COUNTER THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

1. *Urges* competent authorities, at the international, regional and national levels, to implement the outcome of the twentieth special session, within the agreed time-frames, in particular the high-priority practical measures at the international, regional or national level, as indicated in the Political Declaration,[1] the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction[2] and the Action Plan for its implementation and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem,[3] including the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors,[9] the measures to prevent the illicit manufacture, import, export, trafficking, distribution and diversion of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic

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[7] Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

[8] See *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November–20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

[9] Resolution S-20/4 A.

substances,[10] the measures to promote judicial cooperation,[11] the measures to counter money-laundering[12] and the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development;[4]

2. *Stresses* its resolve to strengthen the United Nations machinery for international drug control, in particular the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in order to enable it to fulfil its mandate, and takes note of the recommendations contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/30 of 28 July 1999;

3. *Renews its commitment* to further strengthening international cooperation and substantially increasing efforts to counter the world drug problem, in accordance with the obligations of States under the United Nations drug control conventions, on the basis of the general framework given by the Global Programme of Action,[13] and the outcome of the special session, and taking into account experience gained;

4. *Calls upon* all States to adopt effective measures, including national laws and regulations, to implement the mandates and recommendations of the Global Programme of Action, to strengthen national judicial systems and to carry out effective drug control activities in cooperation with other States in accordance with those international instruments, in order to implement the outcome and the goals of the special session, within the agreed time-frame of 2003 and 2008;

5. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions and other concerned intergovernmental and international organizations, within their mandates, and all actors of civil society, notably non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, sports associations, the media and the private sector, to continue their close cooperation with Governments in their efforts to promote and implement the Global Programme of Action, the outcome of the special session and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, including through public information campaigns;

6. *Urges* Governments, the relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other international organizations to assist and support, upon request, transit States, in particular developing countries in need of such assistance and support, aiming at enhancing their capacity to fight illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, taking into account national plans and initiatives, and emphasizes the importance of subregional, regional and international cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking;

7. *Reaffirms* that preventing the diversion of chemicals from legitimate commerce to illicit drug manufacture is an essential component of a comprehensive strategy against drug abuse and trafficking, which requires the effective cooperation of exporting, importing and transit States, takes note of the progress made in developing practical guidelines to prevent such diversion of chemicals, including those of the International

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[10] See resolution S–20/4 B.

[11] Resolution S–20/4 C.

[12] Resolution S–20/4 D.

[13] See resolution S–17/2, annex.

Narcotics Control Board and the recommendations on implementing article 12 of the 1988 Convention, and calls upon all States to adopt and implement measures to prevent the diversion of chemicals to illicit drug manufacture, in cooperation with competent international and regional bodies and, if necessary and to the extent possible, with the private sector in each State, in accordance with the objectives targeted for 2003 and 2008 in the Political Declaration of the special session and the resolution on the control of precursors adopted at the special session;[10]

8. *Calls upon* States in which cultivation and production of illicit drug crops occur to establish or reinforce, where appropriate, national mechanisms to monitor and verify illicit crops, and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-third session, in March 2000, on the follow-up to the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development;

9. *Requests* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, with the support of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, to continue its work expeditiously, within the established time-frames, on the elaboration of guidelines to facilitate biennial reporting by Governments on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets for 2003 and 2008, as set out in the Political Declaration of the special session, and to encourage an efficient collection of reliable data, an increase in the number of Governments that report updated information on a regular basis and an improvement in the quality of their responses, as well as the avoidance of the duplication of activities;

10. *Calls upon* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to mainstream a gender perspective into all its policies, programmes and activities, and requests the Secretariat to integrate a gender perspective into all documentation prepared for the Commission;

11. *Recalls* the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1995,[14] notes with satisfaction the commitment of young people to a drug-free society made at various forums, stresses the importance of youth continuing to contribute their experiences and to participate in the decision-making processes and, in particular, putting into effect the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, and, in this context, recalls the holding of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in Lisbon from 8 to 12 August 1998,[15] and also recalls the holding of the third World Youth Forum of the United Nations system in Braga, Portugal, from 2 to 7 August 1998;[16]

12. *Calls upon* States to adopt effective measures, including possible national legislative measures, and to enhance cooperation to stem the illicit trade in small arms, which, as a result of its close link to the illicit drug trade, is generating extremely high levels of crime and violence within the societies of some States, threatening the national security and the economies of those States;

13. *Notes* the progress achieved in the elaboration of an international convention against transnational organized crime and the three related international instruments, within the framework of the Ad Hoc

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[14] Resolution 50/81, annex.

[15] A/53/378, annex I.

[16] Ibid., annex II.

Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and urges the Committee to intensify its work in order to complete it in 2000;

14. *Reaffirms* the importance of the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, 1991–2000, under the theme "A global response to a global challenge", by Member States, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations system;

IV

ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in coordinating and providing effective leadership for all United Nations drug control activities so as to increase cost-effectiveness and ensure coherence of action, as well as coordination, complementarity and non-duplication of such activities throughout the United Nations system;

2. *Emphasizes* that the multidimensional nature of the world drug problem calls for the promotion of integration and coordination of drug control activities throughout the United Nations system, including in the follow-up to major United Nations conferences;

3. *Invites* Governments and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to attach high priority to the improvement of the coordination of United Nations activities related to the world drug problem so as to avoid duplication of such activities, strengthen efficiency and accomplish the goals approved by Governments;

4. *Urges* the specialized agencies, programmes and funds, including humanitarian organizations, and invites multilateral financial institutions, to include action against the world drug problem in their programming and planning processes in order to ensure that the integral and balanced strategy which emerged from the special session devoted to countering the world drug problem together is being addressed;

V

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to implement its mandate within the framework of the international drug control treaties, the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control,[17] the Global Programme of Action,[13] the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to countering the world drug problem together and relevant consensus documents;

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[17] See *Report of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Vienna, 17–26 June 1987* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.I.18), chap. I, sect. A.

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Programme for the support provided to different States in meeting the objectives of the Global Programme of Action and of the special session, especially in cases where significant and anticipated progress was achieved regarding the objectives targeted for 2003 and 2008;

3. *Requests* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to continue:

(*a*) To strengthen cooperation with Member States and with United Nations programmes, funds and relevant agencies, as well as other relevant regional organizations and agencies and non-governmental organizations, and to provide, on request, assistance in implementing the outcome of the special session;

(*b*) To strengthen dialogue and cooperation with multilateral development banks and with international financial institutions so that they may undertake lending and programming activities related to drug control in interested and affected countries to implement the outcome of the special session, and to keep the Commission on Narcotic Drugs informed of further progress made in this area;

(*c*) To take into account the outcome of the special session, to include in its report on illicit traffic in drugs an updated assessment of worldwide trends in illicit traffic and transit in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including methods and routes used, and to recommend ways and means of improving the capacity of States along those routes to deal with all aspects of the drug problem;

(*d*) To publish the *World Drug Report*, with comprehensive and balanced information about the world drug problem, and to seek additional extrabudgetary resources for its publication in all official languages;

4. *Urges* all Governments to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the Programme by widening its donor base and increasing voluntary contributions, in particular general-purpose contributions, to enable it to continue, expand and strengthen its operational and technical cooperation activities;

5. *Urges* the International Narcotics Control Board to increase efforts to implement all its mandates under international drug control conventions and to continue to cooperate with Governments, including by offering advice to Member States that request it;

6. *Notes* that the Board needs sufficient resources to carry out all its mandates, and therefore urges Member States to commit themselves in a common effort to assigning adequate and sufficient budgetary resources to the Board, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/20 of 23 July 1996, and emphasizes the need to maintain its capacity, including through the provision of appropriate means by the Secretary-General and adequate technical support by the Programme;

7. *Stresses* the importance of the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, in all regions of the world, and the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and encourages them to continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation, taking into account the outcome of the special session;

8. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[18] and, taking into account the promotion of integrated reporting, requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session, including on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, and the present resolution.

83rd plenary meeting
17 December 1999

ANNEX

Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction

PREAMBLE

1. In the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,[1] Member States:

(*a*) Recognized that demand reduction was an indispensable pillar in the global approach to countering the world drug problem and committed themselves:

(i) To introducing into their national programmes and strategies the provisions set out in the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction;[2]

(ii) To working closely with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to develop action-oriented strategies to assist in the implementation of the Declaration;

(iii) To establishing 2003 as a target date for new or enhanced drug demand reduction strategies and programmes set up in close collaboration with public health, social welfare and law enforcement authorities;

(iv) To achieving significant and measurable results in the field of demand reduction by 2008;

(*b*) Called upon all States to report biennially to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on their efforts to meet the above-mentioned goals and targets for 2003 and 2008.

2. The present Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction is offered as guidance to Member States in implementing the above-mentioned

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[18] A/54/186.

commitments. Organizations of the United Nations system,[19] other international organizations, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations are invited to provide support to Member States in implementing the Action Plan, according to their available resources, specific mandates and the different roles that they are to play in achieving the goals set out in the Declaration.

3. The Action Plan reflects the emphasis in the Declaration on the need for a comprehensive and balanced approach involving demand reduction and supply reduction, each reinforcing the other, together with the appropriate application of the principle of shared responsibility. It stresses the need for services responsible for prevention, including law enforcement agencies, to transmit the same message and use similar language.

4. The Action Plan is guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, in particular respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, human rights and fundamental freedoms and the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.[20] It allows for flexible approaches to reflect social, cultural, religious and political differences and it acknowledges that efforts to reduce illicit drug demand are at different levels of implementation in different countries.

5. The Action Plan recognizes that progress to reduce the demand for illicit drugs should be seen in the context of the need for programmes to reduce the demand for substances of abuse. Such programmes should be integrated to promote cooperation among all concerned, should include a wide variety of appropriate interventions, should promote health and social well-being among individuals, families and communities and should reduce the adverse consequences of drug abuse for the individual and for society as a whole.

6. The Action Plan focuses on the need to design demand reduction campaigns and programmes to meet the needs of the population in general, as well as those of specific population groups, taking into account differences in gender, culture and education and paying special attention to youth.[21] Demand reduction efforts should be developed with the participation of target groups, giving special attention to a gender perspective.

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[19] This may include, but is not restricted to, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization, as well as international financial institutions such as the World Bank.

[20] Resolution 217 A (III).

[21] As expressed, for example, in "The Vision from Banff", drawn up by the Youth Vision Jeunesse Drug Abuse Prevention Forum, held in Banff, Canada, from 14 to 18 April 1998.

I. THE COMMITMENT

7. *Objective 1*. To apply the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction in order to achieve significant and measurable results in reducing the demand for drugs by 2008 and to report on those results to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. That would entail the following:

(*a*) *Impact*. Greater compliance with the spirit and principles of the Declaration and the achievement of significant and measurable results in reducing the demand for drugs;

(*b*) *Outputs*. Biennial reports by each country on the efforts to implement the Declaration and reduce the demand for drugs and on the results achieved;

(*c*) *National action*. Applying the Declaration and preparing a biennial report containing measurable results for submission to the Commission;

(*d*) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme to collate national reports and report on its findings to the Commission.

8. *Objective 2*. To secure, at the highest political level possible, a long-term commitment to the implementation of a national strategy for reducing illicit drug demand and to establish a mechanism for ensuring full coordination and participation of the relevant authorities and sectors of society. That would entail the following:

(*a*) *Impact*. Higher priority for and long-term commitment to demand reduction and effective coordination between relevant sectors of society;

(*b*) *Outputs*. A mechanism for ensuring ongoing commitment to the strategy by: (i) fostering linkages and integration with other relevant plans and programmes, for instance, those concerning health, including public health issues such as those relating to the human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and hepatitis C, as well as education, housing, employment, social exclusion, law enforcement and crime prevention; (ii) encouraging the participation of all sectors of society; and (iii) providing for the assessment and reporting of results and refinement of the strategy as necessary;

(*c*) *National action*. Consultation and cooperation with potential partners in developing multisectoral plans and obtaining long-term commitments coordinated by the appropriate national authorities;

(*d*) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to provide appropriate assistance in establishing coordination mechanisms for those requesting it.

9. *Objective 3*. To develop and implement, by 2003, national strategies fully incorporating the guiding principles set out in the Declaration. That would entail the following:

(*a*) *Impact*. An integrated, balanced, efficient and effective national strategy for addressing drug issues, with major emphasis on demand reduction;

(*b*) *Outputs*. A strategy document tailored to national needs, characteristics and cultures, specifying the role of agencies involved, the time-frame for activities and the goals;

(*c*) *National action*. This would include: (i) developing a national strategy by assessing the problem, defining the needs and resources, establishing priorities and goals, setting time-frames for specific activities and results and determining the roles of the agencies concerned; (ii) implementing the strategy through the development of a national action plan with a multisectoral approach, endorsed by an appropriate national body; and (iii) developing a framework for assessing and reporting results and reporting on the strategy and its implementation to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

(*d*) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to provide guidance and assistance to those requesting it and to set up a database on national drug control strategies.

II. ASSESSING THE PROBLEM

10. *Objective 4*. To assess the causes and consequences of the misuse of all substances in each country and to communicate those causes and consequences to policy makers, planners and the general public in order to develop practical measures, to establish a national system to monitor drug problems and trends and to record and evaluate intervention programmes and their impact on a regular basis using national indicators and, taking into account existing national and regional data systems for monitoring drug problems and trends, as well as the goals and targets established for 2003 and 2008 in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,[1] to work towards establishing a core set of regionally and internationally recognized indicators. That would entail the following:

(*a*) *Impact*. Programmes and policies that are based on precise and timely evidence on the causes and consequences of drug abuse;

(*b*) *Outputs*. They would include: (i) a regular national report on the current drug situation and trends; and (ii) a periodic assessment of the health, social and economic costs of drug abuse and the benefits associated with different measures and actions, on both the demand and the supply sides;

(*c*) *National action*. This would include: (i) establishing a national system for data collection and analysis of drug abuse; (ii) undertaking periodic assessments of the costs to society of drug abuse and of the medium- and long-term benefits to society if the problem is reduced; and (iii) using the information for drug policy and programme development;

(*d*) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations: (i) to provide advice and technical assistance to countries requesting it on the establishment of national systems for monitoring the drug abuse problem, including regionally and internationally recognized core indicators; and (ii) to promote the development of methodologies for assessing the costs and consequences of drug abuse and for undertaking cost-benefit analyses of various measures and actions.

11. *Objective 5*. To develop research programmes at the national and regional levels in scientific fields concerning drug demand reduction and to disseminate widely the results so that strategies for reducing illicit drug demand may be elaborated on a solid scientific basis. That would entail the following:

(*a*) *Impact*. Improved drug demand reduction strategies based on scientific evidence;

(*b*) *Outputs*. Programmes for research on issues related to drug demand reduction;

(*c*) *National action*. Identifying research needs, developing research programmes, mobilizing the resources required and promoting the application of research findings;

(*d*) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to encourage research into a wide range of drug demand reduction issues and the dissemination and application of research findings.

III. TACKLING THE PROBLEM

12. *Objective 6*. To identify and develop programmes for reducing illicit drug demand in a wide variety of health and social contexts and to encourage collaboration among those programmes, which should cover all areas of drug abuse prevention, ranging from discouraging the initial use of illicit drugs to reducing the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse, and should include continuing education, not only for all educational levels, beginning at an early age, but also in the workplace, the family and the community, and to develop programmes to make the public aware of the problem of drug abuse and of the full continuum of risks involved in such abuse and to provide information on and services for early intervention, counselling, treatment, rehabilitation, relapse prevention, aftercare and social reintegration to those in need. That would entail the following:

(*a*) *Impact*. Reduction of drug abuse and related health and social consequences;

(*b*) *Outputs*. Easily accessible drug demand reduction programmes, integrated into broader health and social programmes, covering where possible the full spectrum of services, including reducing the adverse health and social consequences of drug abuse;

(*c*) *National action*. Developing and implementing specific demand reduction activities at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of prevention that meet the needs of various target groups and that are integrated into the health, education and other related sectors;

(*d*) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to provide guidance and assistance to those requesting it and to facilitate the sharing of information on best strategies.

IV. FORGING PARTNERSHIPS

13. *Objective 7*. To identify how different national and local institutions and organizations may contribute to efforts to reduce illicit drug demand and to promote the linking of those institutions and organizations. That would entail the following:

(*a*) *Impact*. More efficient utilization of resources and local ownership of programmes;

(*b*) *Outputs*. Identification of the roles of national and local institutions and organizations and of networking arrangements between them with a view to improving their contribution to and the effectiveness of national strategies;

(*c*) *National action*. This would include: (i) identifying drug demand reduction programmes run by various agencies, governmental and non-governmental, and defining their role in the national strategy; and (ii) promoting and reinforcing collaboration and networking among them;

(*d*) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to compile a collection of examples of collaborative and cooperative arrangements that are in place in Member States to promote and reinforce networking and to facilitate the sharing of information on best strategies.

V. FOCUSING ON SPECIAL NEEDS

14. *Objective 8*. To enhance the quality of programmes for reducing illicit drug demand, especially in terms of their relevance to population groups, taking into account their cultural diversity and specific needs, such as gender, age and socially, culturally and geographically marginalized groups. That would entail the following:

(*a*) *Impact*. Improvement in the quality and relevance of services offered;

(*b*) *Outputs*. Guidelines for programmes and services, taking into consideration cultural diversity and specific needs;

(*c*) *National action*. This would include: (i) establishing guidelines for the development and implementation of programmes; and (ii) monitoring and evaluating programmes according to established guidelines in order to improve programme quality and increase cost-effectiveness;

(*d*) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to promote the development of guidelines and to facilitate the sharing of information among Member States.

15. *Objective 9*. To target the particular needs of groups most at risk of abusing drugs, through the development, in cooperation with those groups, of specially designed communication strategies and effective, relevant and accessible programmes. That would entail the following:

(*a*) *Impact*. Reduction of drug abuse among groups at risk and a reduction in the adverse health and social consequences of drug abuse;

(*b*) *Outputs*. Development of programmes and communication strategies for specific risk groups, in particular youth;

(*c*) *National action*. This would include: (i) identifying risk factors and groups at risk and developing programmes and communication strategies in cooperation with such groups to address their specific needs; and (ii) establishing and supporting mechanisms, including networks that facilitate the participation of young people in the design and implementation of programmes intended for them;

(*d*) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations: (i) to promote the participation of target groups in the design of projects and facilitate the sharing of information on best strategies; and (ii) to facilitate the creation of an international network promoting regular contact among youth involved in demand reduction activities and allowing them to stay informed and learn from one another.

16. *Objective 10*. To provide prevention, education, treatment or rehabilitation services to offenders who misuse drugs, whether in prison or in the community, as an addition to or, where appropriate and consistent with the national laws and policies of Member States, as an alternative to punishment or conviction, and to provide, in particular, drug-abusing offenders held in prison with services to enable them to overcome their dependence and to facilitate their reintegration in the community. That would entail the following:

(*a*) *Impact*. A reduction of drug abuse among offenders and, where appropriate, positive social integration or reintegration;

(*b*) *Outputs*. Comprehensive drug prevention, education, treatment, rehabilitation and social integration programmes for offenders;

(*c*) *National action*. Cooperation among institutions and organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, offering health, social, justice, correctional, vocational training and employment services in order to provide preventive care, education, treatment and rehabilitation for offenders and, where appropriate, programmes to enable their integration into the community;

(*d*) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to facilitate the sharing of information on best strategies.

VI. SENDING THE RIGHT MESSAGE

17. *Objective 11*. To undertake public information campaigns aimed at the population in general to promote health, raise awareness in society and improve people's understanding of the drug problem in the community and of the need to curb that problem, to evaluate those campaigns by establishing a follow-up system to determine their impact and to carry out research into the requirements of particular population groups, such as parents, teachers, community leaders and drug users, with regard to information on drugs and services. That would entail the following:

(*a*) *Impact*. Enhanced knowledge and awareness of the drug problem, of the need to take action and of the available support mechanisms;

(*b*) *Outputs*. Appropriately targeted public information campaigns based on knowledge acquired from research to promote greater awareness of the drug problem and to provide information on available resources and services;

(*c*) *National action*. Assessing needs and including and evaluating public information activities as part of national drug strategies;

(*d*) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to facilitate the sharing of information on best strategies.

18. *Objective 12*. To develop information campaigns that are relevant and precise so that they take into account the social and cultural characteristics of the target population. That would entail the following:

(*a*) *Impact*. Increased knowledge and awareness among drug users and specific social and cultural groups about drugs and the adverse health and social consequences of drug use, as well as the availability of services;

(*b*) *Outputs*. Effective and culturally appropriate information campaigns that encourage and help drug users to reduce their involvement with drugs and prevent or reduce adverse health and social problems and inform them about available services;

(*c*) *National action*. Providing information on drugs and drug abuse and on how to obtain help for those most in need, in particular drug users. Information should be based on knowledge acquired from research and developed in collaboration with the target audience;

(*d*) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to facilitate the sharing of information on best strategies.

19. *Objective 13*. To promote information, education and communication programmes for social mediators, for example, political, religious, education, cultural, business and union leaders, peer educators and representatives of non-governmental organizations and the media worldwide, so that they may convey appropriate and accurate messages about drug abuse. That would entail the following:

(*a*) *Impact*. Enhanced knowledge and skills among social mediators in conveying information about drug abuse;

(*b*) *Outputs*. Programmes and other activities to inform and educate social mediators and to develop their communication skills;

(*c*) *National action*. Developing training strategies for social mediators;

(*d*) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to facilitate the sharing of information on best strategies in this field.

VII. BUILDING ON EXPERIENCE

20. *Objective 14*. To train planners and practitioners of governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and others within the community on a permanent basis in all aspects of demand reduction activities and strategic programming by identifying local, national, subregional and regional human resources and using their experience in the design of programmes in order to guarantee their continuity and to create and strengthen regional, subregional, national and local training and technical resource networks and, with the possible assistance of regional and international organizations, to facilitate the exchange of experiences and expertise by encouraging States to include demand reduction personnel from other States in training programmes that they have developed. That would entail the following:

(*a*) *Impact*. Improved knowledge and skills of practitioners in demand reduction, facilitating the development of more efficient, effective and sustainable services;

(*b*) *Outputs*. Strategies for the development and expansion of the pool of technical expertise supporting planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of national demand reduction programmes;

(*c*) *National action*. This would include: (i) identifying those involved in planning and implementing programmes, from planners to practitioners and institutions and individuals involved with service delivery, in order to enhance their capacity to respond to the problem; (ii) supporting the design and implementation of training programmes, reviewed and updated on a regular basis, to form part of a continuing education programme for trainers; and (iii) designing and instituting training programmes for the various sectors involved in demand reduction programmes;

(*d*) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to facilitate: (i) the sharing of information on best strategies; (ii) the development of guidelines on the development of curricula and training programmes, including distance learning, and assistance for those requesting it; and (iii) the intercountry exchange of experts for training purposes and the participation of foreign personnel in national training programmes developed by Member States.

21. *Objective 15*. To evaluate strategies and activities for reducing illicit drug demand and to develop mechanisms for intercountry, regional and interregional advocacy coordination, cooperation and collaboration in order to identify, share and expand best practices and effective activities in the development and implementation of drug demand reduction programmes. That would entail the following:

(*a*) *Impact*. Demand reduction programmes that are based soundly on validated experience and evidence;

(*b*) *Outputs*. They would include: (i) domestic evaluation results of strategies and activities and mechanisms for cooperation and data sharing; and (ii) mechanisms for facilitating the exchange of evaluation

results and other data assessing the effectiveness of strategies and activities at the domestic, regional and interregional levels;

(*c*) *National action*. This would include: (i) monitoring and evaluating demand reduction strategies and activities and utilizing the results to inform and improve national plans; and (ii) participating in coordinating mechanisms for intercountry, regional and international exchange of information;

(*d*) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to facilitate the exchange of information by establishing coordination mechanisms.

22. *Objective 16*. To create an international system of information on illicit drug demand reduction by linking existing databases managed by international, regional and national organizations in order to provide a network of information on knowledge and experiences that, to the extent possible, would use the above-mentioned core set of regionally and internationally recognized indicators and to enable comparisons of national experiences to be made. That would entail the following:

(*a*) *Impact*. Improved access to information, experiences and practices to facilitate the better design of programmes and policies;

(*b*) *Outputs*. National, regional and international mechanisms allowing easy access to databases and networks for the exchange of knowledge and experience of demand reduction;

(*c*) *National action*. Establishing and maintaining databases and facilitating linkages for international networking;

(*d*) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to participate in the creation of an international mechanism by facilitating networking and linkages between databases.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

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Agenda item 109

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/598 and Corr.1 and 2)*]

54/133. Traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 53/117 of 9 December 1998 and its other relevant resolutions and decisions, as well as those of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,[1]

Recalling the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children and of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming also the obligations contained in later human rights instruments, in particular articles 5 and 12 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

[1] Formerly known as the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities; see E/1999/INF/2/Add.2. For the final text, see *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 1* (E/1999/99), decision 1999/256.

Discrimination against Women,[2] article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child[3] and article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[4]

Bearing in mind article 2, paragraph (*a*), of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[5] and article 5, paragraph 5, of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,[6]

Recalling the provisions of the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,[7] the International Conference on Population and Development,[8] the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Cairo from 29 April to 8 May 1995,[9] and the Fourth World Conference on Women[10] pertaining to traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls,

Recalling also general recommendation 14 concerning female circumcision adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its ninth session,[11] as well as paragraphs 11, 20 and 24 (*l*) of general recommendation 19 concerning violence against women adopted by the Committee at its eleventh session[12] and paragraphs 15 (*d*) and 18 of general recommendation 24 concerning article 12 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on women and health adopted by the Committee at its twentieth session,[13]

Welcoming the fact that the First Ministerial Conference on Human Rights in Africa of the Organization of African Unity, in the Grand-Baie (Mauritius) Declaration and Plan of Action adopted on 16 April 1999, urged all African States to work assiduously towards the elimination of discrimination against women and the abolition of cultural practices which dehumanize or demean women and children,

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[2] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[3] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[4] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[5] Resolution 48/104.

[6] Resolution 36/55.

[7] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[8] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[9] See A/CONF.169/16/Rev.1.

[10] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[11] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38* and corrigendum (A/45/38 and Corr.1), chap. IV, para. 438.

[12] Ibid., *Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/47/38), chap. I.

[13] Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/54/38/Rev.1), part one, chap. I, sect. A.

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Welcoming also the Ouagadougou Declaration adopted on 6 May 1999 at the Regional Workshop on the Fight against Female Genital Mutilation in the countries members of the West African Economic and Monetary Union,[14]

Reaffirming that such traditional or customary practices constitute a definite form of violence against women and girls and a serious form of violation of their human rights,

Expressing concern at the continuing large-scale existence of these practices,

Stressing that the elimination of such practices requires greater efforts and commitment from Governments, the international community and civil society, including non-governmental and community organizations, and that fundamental changes in societal attitudes are required,

1. *Welcomes*:

(*a*) The report of the Secretary-General,[15] which provides encouraging examples of national and international developments;

(*b*) The fact that the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights addressed the issue of harmful traditional or customary practices at their sessions in 1999;

(*c*) The fact that the General Assembly, at its special session for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, has addressed the issue of harmful practices;

(*d*) The efforts undertaken by United Nations bodies, programmes and organizations, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, to address the issue of traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, and encourages them to continue to coordinate their efforts;

(*e*) The work carried out by the Special Ambassador for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation of the United Nations Population Fund, including her visits to a number of countries, and the fact that she has been invited to other countries;

(*f*) The work carried out by the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children and other non-governmental and community organizations, including women's organizations, in raising awareness of the harmful effects of such practices, in particular of female genital mutilation;

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[14] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/14, annex.

[15] A/54/341.

(*g*) The fact that the progress made towards the elimination of traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls will be considered during the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";

2. *Emphasizes* the need for technical and financial assistance to developing countries working to achieve the elimination of traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls from United Nations funds and programmes, international and regional financial institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as the need for assistance to non-governmental organizations and community-based groups active in this field from the international community;

3. *Calls upon* all States:

(*a*) To ratify or accede to, if they have not yet done so, the relevant human rights treaties, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[2] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[3] and to respect and implement fully their obligations under any such treaties to which they are parties;

(*b*) To implement their international commitments in this field, *inter alia*, under the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[10] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[8] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights;[7]

(*c*) To collect and disseminate basic data about the occurrence of traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, including female genital mutilation;

(*d*) To develop, adopt and implement national legislation and policies that prohibit traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, including female genital mutilation, and to prosecute the perpetrators of such practices;

(*e*) To establish or strengthen support services to respond to the needs of victims by, *inter alia*, developing comprehensive and accessible sexual and reproductive health services and providing training to health-care providers at all levels on the harmful health consequences of such practices;

(*f*) To establish, if they have not done so, a concrete national mechanism for the implementation and monitoring of relevant legislation, law enforcement and national policies;

(*g*) To intensify efforts to raise awareness of and to mobilize international and national public opinion concerning the harmful effects of traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, including female genital mutilation, in particular through education, the dissemination of information, training, the media, the arts and local community meetings, in order to achieve the total elimination of these practices;

(*h*) To promote the inclusion of the discussion of the empowerment of women and their human rights in primary and secondary education curricula and to address specifically traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls in such curricula and in the training of health personnel;

(*i*) To promote men's understanding of their roles and responsibilities with regard to promoting the elimination of harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation;

(*j*) To involve, among others, public opinion leaders, educators, religious leaders, chiefs, traditional leaders, medical practitioners, women's health and family planning organizations, the arts and the media in publicity campaigns with a view to promoting a collective and individual awareness of the human rights of women and girls and of how harmful traditional or customary practices violate those rights;

(*k*) To continue to take specific measures to increase the capacity of communities, including immigrant and refugee communities, in which female genital mutilation is practised, to engage in activities aimed at preventing and eliminating such practices;

(*l*) To explore, through consultations with communities and religious and cultural groups and their leaders, alternatives to harmful traditional or customary practices, in particular where those practices form part of a ritual ceremony or rite of passage;

(*m*) To cooperate closely with the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on traditional practices affecting the health of women and the girl child and to respond to her inquiries;

(*n*) To cooperate closely with relevant specialized agencies and United Nations funds and programmes, as well as with relevant non-governmental and community organizations, in a joint effort to eradicate traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls;

(*o*) To include in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other relevant treaty bodies specific information on measures taken to eliminate traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, including female genital mutilation, and to prosecute the perpetrators of such practices;

4. *Invites*:

(*a*) Relevant specialized agencies, United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations to exchange information on the subject of the present resolution, and encourages the exchange of such information between non-governmental organizations active in this field and the bodies monitoring the implementation of relevant human rights treaties;

(*b*) The Commission on Human Rights to address this subject at its fifty-sixth session, thus allowing a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls on the human rights of women;

(*c*) Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute to the trust fund that supports the work of the Special Ambassador for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation of the United Nations Population Fund;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(*a*) To make his report available to relevant meetings within the United Nations system;

(*b*) To report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution, with a special focus on recent national and international developments, including examples of national best practices and international cooperation.

83rd plenary meeting
17 December 1999

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

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[on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/598 and Corr. 1 and 2)]

54/134. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993, and its resolution 52/86 of 12 December 1997, entitled "Crime prevention and criminal justice measures to eliminate violence against women",

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[3] and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[4]

Taking note of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States at its

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[4] Resolution 39/46, annex.

twenty-fourth regular session, held in Belém, Brazil, from 6 to 10 June 1994,[5] and general recommendation 19 on violence against women adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its eleventh session,[6]

Concerned that violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of equality, development and peace, as recognized in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women[7] and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[8] which recommended a set of integral measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women, and to the full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Concerned also that some groups of women, such as women belonging to minority groups, indigenous women, refugee women, migrant women, women living in rural or remote communities, destitute women, women in institutions or in detention, the girl child, women with disabilities, elderly women and women in situations of armed conflict, are especially vulnerable to violence,

Recognizing that violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of their full advancement, and that violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into subordinate positions, compared with men,

Recognizing, also that the human rights of women and of the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights,[9] and recognizing further the need to promote and protect all human rights of women and girls,[10]

Alarmed that women do not fully enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and concerned about the long-standing failure to protect and promote those rights and freedoms in relation to violence against women,[11]

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[5] *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments*, vol. II: *Regional Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.XIV.1), sect. A.7.

[6] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/47/38), chap. I.

[7] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15–26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[8] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[9] See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, sect. I, para. 18.

[10] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I, para. 31.

[11] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 3* (E/1999/23), chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1999/42.

Recognizing with satisfaction the cooperation provided by the relevant agencies, bodies, funds and organs of the United Nations system to different countries in the fight to eradicate violence against women, in fulfilment of their respective mandates,

Recognizing the efforts made by civil society and non-governmental organizations that have contributed to creating a worldwide social conscience of the negative impact, both on social and on economic life, of violence against women,

Reiterating that, according to article 1 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the term "violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life,

1. *Decides* to designate 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women;

2. *Invites*, as appropriate, Governments, the relevant agencies, bodies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and other international organizations and non-governmental organizations, to organize on that day activities designed to raise public awareness of the problem of violence against women.

83rd plenary meeting
17 December 1999

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

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Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 109

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[on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/598 and Corr.1 and 2)]

54/135. Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/93 of 12 December 1997,

Recalling also the importance attached to the problems of rural women by the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[1] the Beijing Declaration[2] and the Platform for Action[3] adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[4]

Noting that some effects of the evolving globalization process may deepen the socio-economic marginalization of rural women,

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[1] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15–26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect A.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] Resolution 34/180, annex.

Noting also that the globalization process has had some benefits by providing opportunities for wage employment for rural women in new sectors,

Mindful of the fact that the available data and existing tools of measurement and analysis are insufficient for a full understanding of the gender implications of the processes of globalization and rural change, and their impact on rural women,

Recognizing the urgent need to take appropriate measures aimed at further improving the situation of women in rural areas,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Invites* Member States, in collaboration with United Nations organizations and civil society, to continue their efforts to implement the outcome of and to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits, including their five-year reviews, and to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women in their national, regional and global development strategies by, *inter alia*:

(*a*) Investing in and strengthening efforts to meet the basic needs of rural women through capacity-building and human resources development measures and the provision of a safe and reliable water supply, health services, including family planning services, and nutritional programmes as well as education and literacy programmes and social support measures;

(*b*) Designing and revising laws to ensure that, where private ownership of land and property exists, rural women are accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property, including through the right to inheritance, and undertaking administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information;

(*c*) Integrating a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development policies and programmes;

(*d*) Providing microcredit and other financial and business services to a greater number of women in rural areas for generating self-employment among them and eradicating poverty;

(*e*) Pursuing the political and socio-economic empowerment of rural women by supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels, including in rural institutions;

(*f*) Placing a renewed focus on the issue of rural women within the context of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration[2] and the Platform for Action[3] adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women;

(*g*) Taking steps towards ensuring that women's unpaid work and contributions to on-farm and off-farm production, including income generated in the informal sector, are visible and recorded in economic surveys and statistics at the local and national levels;

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[1] A/54/123–E/1999/66.

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant international organizations, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and in consultation with Member States, to prepare a comprehensive report on the situation of rural women and challenges faced by them, based, *inter alia*, on the outcome of an expert group meeting, which will draw from the contributions and case studies provided by experts from various regions, and to incorporate its findings and recommendations in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

83rd plenary meeting
17 December 1999